

WRESTLING FORUM

AUGUST 30, 1990,

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 16

Wrestling's Best Kept Secret

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Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th & 30th of each month and mailed the next day. Rates: \$1.50 per issue. All material copyright (c) Jon Gallagher 1990, all rights reserved.

IT'S BEEN A LONG SUMMER

THE GOOD NEWS IS, It's almost over. Wrestling news has been slow, as it always is over the summer months. Promotions recognize that families are on vacation, so they scale back things accordingly. Things still happen, angles are still run, but other than in Memphis, you could almost take the reports from last issue and the issue before that and reprint them verbatim and the news would still be the same. Summerslam is coming up as I type this so that should fuel the wrestling fires into the fall, but as I type this, I've got 24 blank pages in front of me wondering what we're going to do to fill them.

THIS IS WRESTLING FORUM, Wrestling's Best Kept Secret. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail the following day.. Cost is \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months at one time. All renewals, letters, results and other stuff can be sent to us at BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448, unless otherwise specifically noted.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVEN'T been pushing for new subscribers lately, mainly due to the system we use for processing subscriptions. The method is antiquated, even by the standards set up by newspapers in the 1930's. We do not have a computer, so everything is done by hand. It takes at least ten minutes to process a new subscription and about the same amount of time for a renewal. Because of this, we've been pretty content with the number we've had for the past eighteen months.

WITH IN THE NEXT 30 days, we should be on the new computer system. Within 60 days we hope to have all our subscribers on the computer as well. The guy at the Apple store assures me that we'll be able to keep track of thousands of subscribers (dream on) and that it'll take about a minute to process new subs and ten seconds or so to update current renewals. Therefore, in order to pay for this beast, we'll be going all out for subscribers, probably sometime in October. We'll announce details of a subscription drive that will reward those who bring us new subscribers. There will be various "prizes" for those who get friends to subscribe. Details to come.

WE WERE NOTIFIED last week about the passing of former NWA champion Pat O'Connor. I've included in this issue a tribute to him and Ed Garea will be compiling a special column on him which should appear next issue.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO have been asking about back issues, we do have most of our back issues available. They cost \$1.50 each unless we are out of that particular issue (the only issue I can think of that we are out of is the one that had the original Week With the Fed article). I will check with the printer and find out what he would charge to print just one or two copies of those we are out of if you are interested. If you want to order back issues, send along the proper amount. If we are out of an issue, we'll notify you (please include your phone number) and you can decide if you want to extend your subscription, get a refund, or pay the extra printing cost. We have issues dating back to when we started nearly five years ago.

FINALLY, I'LL BEGIN compiling information for the yearbook in about six weeks. Let me know what features you'd like to see in this year's edition. By the way, we are sold out of all previous yearbooks so don't order them when ordering back issues.

WITH THAT ALL SAID, we'll go straight to the weatherroom of the Forum offices and check in with Jeff Siegel and the Wrestling Barometer...

The Wrestling Barometer

August, 1990

Welcome to the August edition of *The Wrestling Barometer*, Wrestling Forum's exclusive monthly look at what's hot and what's not in the world of professional wrestling.

Like the level of action in the rest of the wrestling world, August proved to be one of the slowest months in recent *Barometer* memory -- the lowest level of reader participation, in fact, in well over a year (where were all of you regular contributors???)

As always, we begin with a quick review of the *Barometer* point scoring system: Five points are awarded for a first-place vote; three points for a second-place vote; one point for a third-place vote; and one-half point for every item that is included on the list from fourth place on. Finally, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon so that we can focus on the month's major trends.

With that, let's take a look at the August *Barometer*:

WHAT'S HOT

(needed to qualify: 15 points)

- 1) **EDDIE GILBERT's** involvement/work in Memphis (27 1/2 points)
- 2) **CHRIS ADAMS-STEVE AUSTIN** brawls in Texas (16 1/2 points)

WHAT'S NOT

(needed to qualify: 15 points)

- 1) **JESSE VENTURA's** departure from the WWF (32 points)
- 2) Proliferance of "women being disrobed" angles (21 points)
- 3) **KERRY VON ERICH's** early performance in the WWF (17 points)

Notes: Most of those readers who did participate specifically commented on the extreme lack of viable candidates, especially on the "Hot" side (as evidenced by the lowest number of qualifiers there in years)....Interesting to note that the two qualifiers on the upside were both representatives of smaller promotions. As regular *Barometer* readers well know, it's a rare sight these days when a qualifier from outside of the WWF or NWA graces these pages. It's even rarer when there's more than one. And, when they're the only residents on the hot list, it might well say something about the state of the business these days....Eddie Gilbert returned to a familiar spot on the *Barometer* with another first-place finish -- reminiscent of how well he fared here during his Continental days....So much for Ole Anderson's undesirable streak on the "Not" list -- it ends this month at three....A note of irony: while the Adams-Austin gained some positive recognition, one of the driving forces "behind" its success -- Toni and Jeannie's own special version of "Strip Poke-her" -- came under fire on the down side. Though I suppose Tessa and Dirty White Girl must "bare" some of the responsibility here, too (told you it was a slow month)....

The deadline for the September *Barometer* ballots is September 21. As always, entries and related comments should be sent to:

JEFF SIEGEL
P.O. Box 5461
Evanston, IL 60204

INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

report by MIKE VIOLA

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....SO I SET THE VCR to tape ICW on Friday at midnight. I tape two weeks worth of shows and then I watch them at once and hence, the ICW report is produced. But what do you do when you sit down to view these tapes and both shows are reruns from last March? Report old news? I was confronted with this dilemma this issue because that is exactly what happened to me. There they were, the Undertakers, advancing in the ICW tag team tournament; there was Super Duper Masrio winning the wrestler of the month award. Why bother taping ICW TV shows when you can watch them five months later anyway?, I would have called WNEU to see if they had accidentally put the wrong tape on (a very real possibility given the station management), but halfway through the tape I see an ICW ad announcing "The New ICW coming soon." This leads me to believe that this was a current tape but all they had were old matches to show.

WITH THIS IN MIND, let me partially retract what I said last issue about Eric Sbraccia and Phil Apollo winning the tag belts. It could have been an old rerun since they had previously won the belts from the Undertakers. Same thing goes for their impending feud with the Lethal Weapons. I just don't know for sure if any of this really happened recently. Maybe they should call this group the TZCW (Twilight Zone Championship Wrestling).

THIS BEING THE CASE, how can the ICW claim that they care about what their TV product looks like? What sort of promotion pulls this crap three weeks in a row? I think President Savoldi ought to seriously consider some sort of booking change or reorganization to get this promotion rolling. They have some TV outlets as well as being somewhat established since they've been around a while. Throw in the fact that there are fewer major independents today than in years past and it points to the ICW being capable of becoming some sort of force in the wrestling scene. Instead, we get a promotion that can never do two right things in a row. SOMEBODY WAKE UP!

FINISHING MOVES: There is talk about moving the promotion, or at least the TV part, to Florida. According to sources, Savoldi thinks that the production down there would be cheaper and that wrestlers would be more plentiful. Could this be what they're talking about when they say the "New ICW?"

OTHER INDEPENDENTS

THE ATLANTIC STATES Wrestling Association headquartered out of Baltimore has a backer and will be doing a TV shoot in the next month. They have secured a TV slot, but it's up against both USWA and WWF programming so don't look for anything to come out of this group real soon. Axl Rotton is the lead heel and A.J. Fritzoid is the group's champion.

ROB RUSSSEN'S IWA HAS lost its SportsChannel contract after a short run. In its place is scheduled a promotion based in Los Angeles that has yet to start up. The promoters of the new group are claiming to have every big name independent star available to them. They in fact do, but you have to realize that just because they are "available" that certainly doesn't mean that the promotion and the wrestler can get together on price. If I want to promote a show, I have every independent wrestler available to me also. Anyway, the new show was sold with no demo tape, just promises of what they can do. We'll follow the situation as info becomes available.

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AS REPORTED LAST issue, the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association came to Peoria this past week to tape some TV. They did 27 matches in a show that went from 7:30 to almost 11:00. News from here: Sheik Adnon El Kaissey is gone (see WWF report)...Nick Bockwinkel was brought in to do color...Bonni Blackstone and hubby Joe Pedicino were both in attendance and Bonnie did some of the announcing...Joe just sat behind her giving the evil eye to anyone who was making eyes at her...Eddie Sharkey was in to do the refereeing chores...Medussa Micili has turned heel, though that angle wasn't shot in Peoria and she now has a manager named Jonathan Blue who's a Mr. Clean look-a-like...biggest pop of the night was for Heidi Lee Morgan and Misty Blue Sims who will be feuding with Black Venus and Nasty Girl...there was not a great turnout, but good enough that the promotion was talking about coming back in a few months...my thanks to JIM HILL of East Peoria for supplying us with the report.

JOE PEDICINO IS telling folks that he has the backers to put together another national independent promotion. Joe would use the connections he still has through syndicating Pro Wrestling this Week for a TV network.

AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT Chris Cruise has made a proposal to Sports-Channel (as well as others) about another version of Pro Wrestling the Week. He has two proposals on the table, one with a half hour format and the other with an hour format.

THE AWA'S SYNDICATED show (which I finally caught, quite by accident) is still weeks behind real time. They are still pushing the finals of the Team Challenge series, even though the finals took place several weeks ago. I know it was a current show, because they did take the time to bury Sgt. Slaughter during the broadcast. During an old match with new audio, Greg Gagne and their new announcer (can't ever think of his name) ran down the Sarge saying he looked tired and lazy. The sad fact is, Greg probably believes that his comments will hurt Sarge in the WWF when probably not more than a handful of people heard them in the first place.

LOCALLY, ANOTHER GROUP ran a show in Burlington, Iowa that combined wrestling and boxing. A guy from work brought me a clipping from the paper over there (Burlington is about an hour away) and it didn't list a single person I had ever heard of. The boxers were "professional" but were no doubt fighting that way for the first time. There was no mention of who the promoter was (it was not Rocky Brewer) and the newspaper didn't know when I called them. Evidently the guys hit town and left. If anyone hears of a similar set up close to you, find out what you can about them and let me know.

BILLY JACK HAYNES HAS threatened to open up another promotion in the Pacific Northwest. Zig Ziglar once said that when a cat sits on a hot stove, he won't sit on a hot stove again. He also won't sit on a cold one either. You might say the cat is out of the sitting on stoves business. Well, I guess that tells you something about Billy Jack. He failed miserably in his first attempt at running a promotion in that area. Then again, my wife reminds me that Abe Lincoln failed in business several times before he made good. I guess that means that if Billy can come up with a catchy slogan like "Fourscore and seven years ago..." he might have a chance. Don't bet on it though.

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PENCIL POINTS!

RATINGS AND SHARES

Before someone goes and accuses you of bulletin bashing, let me clarify what I have to say: I am not knocking other bulletins. I used to subscribe to several, but have cut back to just yours and an occasional issue of another. The reason I cut back was because the others filled me full of a whole bunch of stuff that I just was not interested in. Whether it was Japanese wrestling, or tall tales, or ratings and shares, it seemed that I just couldn't get interested. I like the NWA, the WWF, and some of the independents like Memphis. Am I not a wrestling fan because I don't like Japanese wrestling? Am I a castoff because I don't see any humor in some people's attempt at satire? Am I any less of a wrestling fan because I don't understand nor want to understand the shares and ratings system? I enjoyed the other bulletins, but they all seemed to have too much of what I wasn't interested in to justify my renewing. My point of all this is this: just because the writer of the letter in the 8/15 issue jumped on your case for not knowing about ratings and shares does not make him more or less of a wrestling fan than you or I. He just looks at the sport a little differently.

-ERIC HOYME-

INDIANAPOLIS, IN-

DIPSTICK NOMINATION

I've read before that the WWF doesn't consider the NWA to be competition. Yet, they go and book Chicago for the same day as the NWA Pay Per View show. I think this is childish.

They know they will sell out or come close to selling out the 16,000 seat Rosemont Horizon, regardless of whether there's a show across town or not. They know the NWA will do another 3000 house.

I think the main reason for doing the show is not to cut the NWA's attendance, but to hamper the people without VCRs who might attend the WWF show instead of ordering the PPV.

I will be very disappointed if the WWF doesn't get a Dipstick Award for this one.

-JOHN LAFFERTY-

-Chicago, IL-

SOME CORRECTIONS

Yo! Dummy! Do you simpletons down in Knoxville get the same channel 32 (WFLD-TV) that we do here in the big city? Perhaps the boondocks are just a few years behind when the signal finally reaches you.

First: WWF wrestling is at 11:00 am on Saturday mornings, not 10:00 like you insisted that it was. Second: The White Sox games are carried on WGN, not WFLD. The games that aren't on WGN are on SportsChannel. WFLD lost the contract a couple years ago.

I'll forgive you this time. It just goes to prove my theory that anything south of Joliet is nothing but a cow pasture anyway.

-RANDY MCNEELY-

-Highland Park, IL-

RESULTS

The one part of the bulletin I used to faithfully skip over was the Results from All Over section. Evidently, all the newsletters have the same correspondents, and I felt like reading it two or three times was enough. Besides, if you know who is feuding with who, then you don't need to ask who won. The answers give themselves away.

Then one day, quite by accident, I read the results. It was hilarious what you had written in the NOTES section. The line about Axel Rotton llooking like an out of shape Dusty Rhodes had me rolling.

I'll be sure to read the results section from now on; at least the notes part.

-I.M.-

-New York City, NY-

EARTHQUAKE

I understand most of wrestling and the going ons behind the scene due to your newsletter, but for the life of me, I can't figure out why Earthquake is a star. Is it just because he's so big? It certainly isn't because of his wrestling ability. It's certainly not because of his interview presence. It's certainly not because he's handsome. What is it? Before getting Forum, I was a Hogan fan and looked forward to his matches. But I can't get excited about his matches against this slob. I've got tickets for Summerslam, but only because it's a Pay Per View. There's really no reason to go other than that.

-TODD STREMMEL-

-Kensington, PA-

BAN THE 900 NUMBERS

I know you don't like the name withheld letters, but I'm too ashamed to print my name. On a lark, I decided to call the NWA hotline and sample what they had each day. A couple of the reports were okay, but for the most part, I didn't like them. I called a hotline number listed in Pro Wrestling Illustrated and got hooked into a trivia game. That was fun and I didn't see any harm in it. I never did very well, but, like I said, it was fun. I doubt if I made more than one or two calls to these numbers a week after my initial experience with the NWA hotline. That why I was so shocked when the phone bill came.

The total charges alone for calls to the wrestling hotlines were \$52.30!!! I could have subscribed to Forum for a year! To the Observer or Torch for six months! And I would still have had enough left over for a meal at McDonalds and possibly an Ultimate Roider t-shirt!

Needless to say, my wife hit the roof.

The disclaimer or whatever they call it at the end of the TV commercials for the hotlines telling kids to get their parents permission before dialing just aren't strong enough! I'm a grown man and I fell for it. I can imagine what little kids do.

I'm going to write to my congressman, something I've never done, and see if there's anything we can do about stronger disclaimers or banning the 900 numbers altogether.

The charges of \$2.00 for the first minute and 45¢ for each additional minute may not seem like much, and it's not until you add them up. A three minute phone call costs \$2.90 and if you put ten or twenty of those together, you can easily have a monstrous phone bill, just like I did. Someone needs to stop these bandits, NOW!

-NAME AND CITY WITHHELD ON REQUEST-

EDITOR: Hotlines can be habit forming. The profit margin on each call is enormous so I doubt that we can ever get the promotions to stop selling them. I'm just surprised that the WWF hasn't instituted their own 900 number yet.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

SOMETIMES WHEN I WATCH World Championship Wrestling, I think I'm watching "All Time Great Bloopers and Practical Jokes." Then, a minute or two later they turn around and do something very effective which leaves me asking the eternal question, "Has Jeff Mullins/Jack Hammeroyd and his family/personalities taken over control here?"

THEY SHOWED THE ANGLE we alluded to last issue where Sid Vicious comes to the ring and destroys both the Midnight Express and Pillman and Zenk. The problem is, he didn't destroy them. Each got a punch or a clothesline, but each of them got up afterward. The show went to commercial with Bobby Eaton and Sid slugging it out toe to toe. I'm not sure if Vicious got the upper hand after the cameras went off the air or if Bobby got up too soon, but whatever the case, it certainly did not get Vicious over as a monster heel like they wanted. The proper thing would have been to leave Vicious standing alone in the ring at the end with four or five bodies around him. The way it went, I'm surprised that Jim Cornette didn't jump back up to his feet and start clobbering him with the tennis racquet! When Titan wanted to get Earthquake over as a monster, they carted their number one babyface out on a stretcher. In Titan, when they want to get the heel over, the babyfaces stay down. This was probably as much Eaton's fault as it was the editor/director of the show.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I'm quite impressed with the way they are handling the introduction of the Black Scorpion. They have admitted that he's unknown and they don't know how he got the match. They've been playing up the angle where he's dangerous. Now the Sting-Scorpion match is probably going to be a throw away, a way to get Sting on national TV without wasting one of the more valuable heels in a jobber's role, but still, putting an unknown in the ring with the champion is not a way to sell tickets. It's because of that that I'm impressed with the handling. This past weekend on TBS's Main Event, Sting was a guest on the Danger Zone. Sting said he didn't know who the guy was, but Paul had a video of him.

THE VIDEO WAS BACKLIGHTED so you couldn't see any of the guy's features, but they let him talk. He went on about how he was going to be gaining revenge for something Sting did in the past. He gave Sting a hint: Remember California in 1986. He said that whatever Sting had done had caused him (Scorpion) a lot of hatred. That was effective.

BUT ONCE AGAIN, THERE'S a problem. Instead of going back to Sting and getting his reaction to the video, we went to commercial without any further comment. It could have been worse, though...Sting could have come back on and brushed the guy off as a lunatic and thus killed the match on 9/5.

SINCE WE'RE POINTING out production snafus, we should also mention that Larry Zbyszko was mentioned as coming in on the air. That deal has fallen through, and very honestly, there was little hope of it ever coming off in the first place. Verne Gagne has a reputation of being a very hard person to work with on any level. In this case, he was insisting that he come in as well and that the AWA title be put on the same level with the NWA title. I'm sure that when Verne heard NWA officials laughing over the phone, he just figured that something funny had happened in their offices. Prior to this, Jim Ross had mentioned the name "Dustin" to Arn Anderson during an interview. They had planned on Dustin Rhodes coming in as well.

AS FOR WHO THE BLACK Scorpion is, we don't yet know. We know that Ole Anderson is doing the backlighted interviews, but as for who will step in the ring under the mask is a secret. Either that or the NWA isn't sure yet. Steve Keirn's name is mentioned most often, but sources in Florida say that he's staying there. The other most mentioned name is Al Perez. I know this is getting ridiculous, but I have even heard that it will be Kiern at the Clash and Perez at house shows.

PAUL ORNDORFF GAVE NOTICE and I believe that as of this writing, he's already finished up. Most of the speculation regarding the Black Scorpion when the match was first announced had Orndorff under the hood since he wasn't on the card. Unless we're being kay-fabed on this one, I think we can put that rumor to rest. Paul gave the same reason as he did when he left the WWF; tired of travel. Word has it that he will continue to work Georgia independents and run his bowling allies.

THE STEINERS HAVE WON THE United States Tag Team Championships from the Midnight Express. It happened on 8/24 at the Meadowlands show. There were no camera crews present, so many of the assembled figured it was either non title or that they would come up with some obscure reason for the Steiners not getting to keep the belts. There was no announcement made of a title change, even though the ref did hand the belts to the Steiners and they left with them. Confirmation of the title change came over the next few nights where they were introduced in Baltimore and Chicago as the new champions. From all indications, the title change will be acknowledged at house shows but the announcement won't come on TV until 9/8 weekend.

SPEAKING OF THE STEINERS, this should give you an idea of how crazy they are and why there isn't exactly a long line waiting to wrestle them. On the 9/1 broadcast on TBS, they wrestled in a squash match. One of the jobbers was former Florida wrestler Death Row, a big 450 pound monster. The Steiners played with him. Kind of like you try out wrestling moves on your six year old nephew. Both guys took turns suplexing him without his complete cooperation. Scott tried a bearhug suplex and ended up dumping the guy on his head. Rick did a couple of moves as well that used nothing but raw power. I would guess that if any normal human being would have tried those same mores, they would be seeing a chiropractor for the rest of their lives.

THE GRAPEVINE TELLS US that Art Barr will be in soon in his Beetle-juice character. There was some problems over the name which is owned by Warner Brothers. The objected to its use in a wrestling promotion. I believe that the solution was to call him Beetleguise, which is the name of the scientist who invented the telescope (and I'll bet you thought it was Gallileo!). Barr got himself in trouble in Oregon for having sex with a teenage girl and hasn't been mentioned on that TV show since. Last I saw of Barr, he was pretty decent and what he lacked in ring savvy, the character covered that up. I think this gimmick could do well in the NWA and that they won't be embarrassed by it.

TOM ZENK MISSED A FEW shows a week or so back. He was best man at Johnny Ace's wedding and even though he had cleared it through the front office and reminded other wrestlers of it in the dressing rooms just prior to his leaving, no one seemed to remember him getting the okay.

SOMEHOW I KEEP MISSING the Master Blasters, even though they've been on TBS already. Word is that they are going to be given a mega push even though they're rookies. One called complained that they were fresh out of the gym; just another couple of muscleheads who haven't and probably won't learn to work. Ricky "the Prophet" Rice, who headlines PWA cards in Minnesota for Eddie Sharkey had been asked to take one of the roles,

but he's happy right now doing the Prophet gimmick. Besides, he really didn't want to wear a mohawk.

SOME NAMES MISSING IN action from here including Mean Mark. The rumor is that he's been fired, though no one who would know has been able to confirm the rumor.

SID VICIOUS ALSO TOOK a few days off because of an "injury" but we're told that it was nothing of the sort. There are several stories circulating as to what happened, but none of them make sense. The problem, whatever it was (and no one is willing to talk about it) has been solved and he's back. Many of the boys are upset because they are claiming that Vicious is a pampered brat. The front office looks after him and caters to whatever he wants because they are so afraid of losing him. He was over super big in the Meadowlands so a babyface turn down the road could make him a superstar like the NWA has never seen.

WE COVER JIM HERD'S latest stupid statement in the Dipstick/Class Act section, but it just goes to show the paranoia what runs rampant when things don't go well for the NWA. When Kevin Sullivan was in a power position, when things went wrong, he'd blame the sheets. When something went right (which was rare), he gave himself credit "in spite of the sheets." For the past week, we've had a poster up at work that gives the difference between a winner and a loser. It says that a winner is someone who will make mistakes, take the blame, and set out to correct those mistakes. A loser is someone who finds someone else to blame and leaves it at that. Maybe I should send the NWA a copy of the poster.

PAUL E DANGEROUSLY is doing the Danger Zones regularly again, in spite of what Ole thinks. The segments are back on track and are generally good. My favorite to date (other than the one he did while still with the AWA when he "interviewed" Tommy Rich) was one with Lex Luger. He started off by insulting Luger every which way he could in his best impression of Roddy Piper. Luger had not been talking since he had been beaten up in the parking lot. Dangerously got him to break his silence with the insults. Luger grabbed him by the lapels and threatened him. Dangerously went in to his "yes sir, no sir" persona complete with beads of sweat. Nice touch. Another Danger Zone featured Ric Flair and you could feel the tension between Flair and Paul E, right through the TV screen. Now if they would only let Jim Cornette back in to the broadcast booth with Jim Ross...

BILL APTER AND CREW at Pro Wrestling Illustrated and related magazines are in some hot water with the NWA. Enough so that Jim Herd has threatened to pull their press credentials. As most of you know, the newsstand magazines are a work anyway; the year end awards are determined before the ballots appear, the interviews and press conferences only take place in the fertile imaginations of the writers; the stories are often to appease those in power at the promotions, and quotes are often used that never were uttered. Apter recently printed some quotes attributed to Jim Herd and Herd was upset. He doesn't like the magazines having a free hand when it comes to reporting stuff about him or his wrestlers and is trying to solve that problem. As of right now, things have worked out, we understand so that Apter can continue to work the interviews, but they must be approved through Herd's office first.

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CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH
August 1990

WE AWARD THIS MONTH'S Class Act Award with some mixed feelings. The act itself was pure class; the comments afterward show why the NWA will never catch the WWF in popularity.

THIS PAST WEEKEND, A wrestling fans convention was held in New York. It was sponsored/put together by John Arezzi of a local radio station. He paid various wrestlers to come in and appear and made part of his investment back by having the wrestlers sell their autographs. Included in the deal was NWA champion Sting who was to sell his autographs at \$6.00 a shot.

WHILE I HAVE NEVER BEEN an advocate of selling autographs, whether it be baseball stars who appear at card shows or wrestlers who appear at wrestling conventions, I do understand that expenses have to be met and without a name to draw the crowd, the promoters of such an event can find themselves in a sticky Catch 22 situation. Either they shell out the big bucks for a big star and sell his autograph and try to break even, or they bring in minor stars and draw a small crowd and hope not to lose money.

JIM HERD AND THE NWA, however, could not see fans paying six bucks for a signature. A dollar and twenty cents per letter does seem a bit high. Because of this, they let Sting sign for free and agreed to pay Arezzi six dollars (or knock six bucks off Sting's appearance fee) for each signature.

BECAUSE OF THIS GESTURE towards the fans, we proudly award the Class Act of the Month to Jim Herd and the NWA.

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH
August 1990

BUT THEN HE OPENED his mouth and stuck both feet in.

JIM HERD WAS QUOTED in Pro Wrestling Torch this week calling the promoters of fan conventions, and newsletters "a parasite on our business. He even accused us of "making money."

AND TO THINK! FOR the past thirty three years I've been thinking we lived in a free economy! The nerve of some people! To make money off the wrestling business without actually being IN the business! Shame on us!

NO, SHAME ON YOU, Mr. Herd. The newsletters that you read every month (with the exception of a few) struggle to keep their heads above water financially. If money were the only object to doing a newsletter, there would probably be three or four, not fifty-six. The editors or newsletters and promoters of fan conventions do so not so much to make money as to show their love of the sport. The promoters of this particular convention were out to make money for sure, but they were also out to put money in your pocket. How many PAYING customers did they put in the Meadowlands for your show there? How many times did they plug your Meadowlands show on the radio when they could have been accepting paid advertising? And how much was it that you charged these people for Sting just to show up?

YOU WERE ALSO QUOTED as saying that McMahon and the WWF doesn't get involved in this type of thing. He doesn't have to; his champion is over with fans and the general public. You could have offered not only Sting, but several of your wrestlers in a move that would have locked in your fans in a market you don't do well in. But your own greed wouldn't allow it because someone else might have made some money.

WE HOPE YOUR DIPSTICK Award fits you as well as the Class Act. You deserve both.

THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

VINCE FINALLY GETS ONE RIGHT - Hey, I can't believe I'm writing this. It must be the sacrifice I and my phantoms must make in the course of universal events to unleash the dark powers and control my destiny. But whatever, Summer Scam wasn't half bad. The interesting thing about Summer Scam is that it has always been consistently better than Wrestlemania, which is Vince's crown jewel. Now, as you know, my grades are based on the total low-class entertainment value of each match. To expect anything else from the WWF, like wrestling perhaps, is the expect the impossible.

POWER & GLORY vs. ROCKERS - This is what an opener should be - fast-paced, plenty of action, and a pre-conceived game plan followed to the letter. They covered the fact that Shawn Michaels is in no condition to wrestle quite well, double-teaming Jenetty throughout the match and using that unique finish to pin Jenetty. Grade: A.

MR. PERFECT vs KERRY VON ERICH - After he leaves wrestling, Curt Hennig should be a regional sales manager for Amway; he is that good a salesman. Curt really put Von Erich, who is still an unknown quantity with the fans, over like Flynn. B+

SHERRI vs. SAPPHIRE - Sherri comes to the ring in high heels, so we know she wasn't about to wrestle. Sapphire no-showed, as she was busy rehearsing with Ted DiBiase. A+ (Because they didn't wrestle).

SANTANA vs. WARLORD - Have trouble sleeping? Watch this match and your troubles will be over. F

We are now 37 minutes into Summer Scam and the first plug for the Survivor Series airs. Vince doesn't miss a trick.

DEMOLITION vs. HART FOUNDATION - Nice to see the Harts win the belts back. Jim Neidhart is one of the most underrated tag wrestlers in the game. Bret Hart is, well, Bret Hart, and that's more than good enough. Of course, the Roadies came in to interfere and taint the Hart's victory, but we expected that anyway. Crush is not bad. A-

We now are bombarded with a plug for Wrestlemania VII. It is now 59 minutes into the show. Next follows an interview with Jake Roberts. We barely remember what Jake is saying, it's what he is always blathering about, and who cares? But what is interesting is that Damien is wrapping himself around Jake's neck and squeezing. Jake is definitely uncomfortable, but this is great.

JAKE ROBERTS vs. BAD NEWS BROWN - This is the first match I can remember seeing where the special referee played no major

part. I hardly knew the Bossman was there, and I didn't really care. I just wanted the match to end, which it did as Brown was DQ'd. Bad News then attacks Bossman and Jake comes to the rescue with the one stereotypical prop we are sure that black people are scared to death of - a snake. Bad News then does his Kingfish impression and it's "feets do yo stuff" time. Isn't wrestling wonderful? F-

Brother Love now does his shtick and hosts the return of Sgt. Slaughter. This becomes hysterical in short order, because try as he might, the Sarge can't get any reaction. He gives Brother Love a "Sgt. Slaughter Great American Medal" (I hope it's recyclable). Nothing. He hugs Brother Love. Nothing. He tells the audience how soft America has become. (Until you have seen the sight of the 300 lb. Sarge telling America it has gone soft, you haven't lived.) Nothing. He then pulls out all the stops and predicts that Iraq will beat our butts in the Persian Gulf. Less than nothing. Leave it to Vince to always swim against the tide.

ORIENT EXPRESS vs. DUGGAN & VOLKOFF - Duller than a rusty knife. The Express may have seen it as a sort of ritual humiliation, which I think it was. Duggan and Volkoff are vying as the worst tag team of all time. Thank goodness it didn't go too long. Z

RHODES vs. SAVAGE - Of course, we know that this is when Ted will reveal that Sapphire is now in his camp. And he doesn't disappoint. Savage is borne to the ring by four straining jobbers, while Queen Peg Bundy is forced to walk in front. The exercise will do her good. Dusty is so upset by Sapphire's turn that he is easy prey for Randy and his magic pocketbook. C+ for the angle.

HOGAN vs. EARTHQUAKE - Hogan could draw heat in a graveyard. Earthquake bounces around nice. Bossman makes a nice accessory at ringside. The match was your typical Hogan match: The Hulk begins strong, the heel turns the tables and all looks lost. But wait! Hulk makes his superduperhuman comeback. Yes! I figured that the Hulk would kick out of the Earthquakes finisher, but I didn't think he would only win on a count-out. It seems that the WWF has further plans for earthquake. Wrestlemania VII, maybe? If there are any lingering doubts as to Hogan's popularity they disappeared last night. It's just a matter of time before he demands his title back. B

WARRIOR vs. RUDE - The fact that the WWF put this match on right after Hogan's match gives a strong indication of how they really feel about the Warrior. The Warrior spends untold minutes running around the cage (Couldn't find the door?), poops out completely, rests and then climbs into the cage to fight Rude. Rude is one greatly underrated wrestler; he's got to be dead tired from carrying this slob night after night. All in all, not a bad match, for what it was. B-

REMEMBERING A LEGEND

PAT O'CONNOR 1924-1990

WHEN I RECEIVED WORD this past week that Pat O'Connor had died at the age of 65, I felt a special kind of loss that words may not be able to describe. I felt as though I'd lost a friend, even though I had never met the man.

I WAS VERY LUCKY TO have seen him work in person once. It was the first wrestling matches my parents ever took me to see back in 1967. I don't remember who Pat wrestled that night (though I can tell you the complete results of the rest of the card), but I remember it was the second match of a four bout card. He won the match, though I can't tell you how.

WHAT I DO REMEMBER was the thrill my father experienced seeing Pat wrestle again. Once of my father's favorite wrestling stories was how he'd seen Pat O'Connor go to an hour draw with Verne Gagne (I believe the year was 1952). My dad made sure that my early wrestling education included the fact that Pat O'Connor was one of the greatest wrestlers of all time.

THE NIGHT I SAW HIM LIVE was after his prime. At 43, he was no doubt making the rounds as a former great and promoters would use his name in hopes of drawing a crowd. I can't believe he was paid a whole lot for a night's work then, mainly because my ticket stub says that we paid a whole \$2.00 for ringside seats.

IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING, I had the chance to see O'Connor work courtesy of video tape. He was truly an innovator of his era, using dropkicks and a move called the O'Connor Roll up (Bob Backlund used this same move years later to defeat Billy Graham for the WWWF title). While not spectacular by today's standards, he was a shining star compared to his contemporaries.

MOST RECENTLY, O'CONNOR took part in an old timer's battle royal in the Meadowlands approximately three years ago. At the 1988 UAWF Convention in Memphis, we showed that video tape during the induction of Lou Thesz in to the Ring of Immortals. Lou had won the Battle Royal by throwing O'Connor out when they were the last two left. Prior to tossing him over the ropes, they had worked a short 50's style match with lots of mat work. O'Connor at the time was in his early sixties while Thesz was in his early seventies. It was quite impressive, given the situation.

SOMEONE DUBBED A COPY OF the battle royal and presented it to Pat. That's how our friendship started. He found out who I was and called me to thank me. I mentioned having seen him live once and we joked about my age and his memory. Since that time, I talked with him about half a dozen times, mainly just to shoot the bull. I invited him to the 1989 Convention, but he had other commitments. He assured me that he would make the 1990 Convention if we had one.

PAT WAS VERY COMMON and humble about his accomplishments in the ring. He was a proud man, but one who was willing to talk at length about "the good old days." He seemed quite flattered that fans still remembered his name. He was particularly proud of the 6/30/61 match in which he lost the World Title to Buddy Rogers.

ONE THING THAT WE DIDN'T know was that during the one on one with Thesz in the battle royal, Pat suffered a broken collarbone. He didn't let that stop him from finishing the match.

I HAD NOT SPOKEN WITH Pat in over six months. I knew he had not been feeling well, but I did not realize the seriousness of his condition. I'm told that the liver cancer that finally claimed him had left he lapsing in and out of a coma for the past two weeks. Our prayers are with his family and loved ones.

UNITED STATES WRESTLING ASSOCIATION
WORLD CLASS

Report by Mike Viola

I ONLY CAUGHT ONE TV SHOW this issue instead of the normal two was the station that airs USWA (WNEU) decided to play hide and seek with the time slot. What I did see was enough to convince me that Steve Austin may really be from Truth or Consequences, New Mexico and is nicknamed Cactus (or has a twin that wrestles by that name).

HE AND CHRIS ADAMS HAD a "wear what you want" match at the Sportatorium. Austin came to the ring with shoulder pads and a helmet while Adams was dressed up in a Karate outfit with a kendo stick. No girls were at ringside (I wonder why?) and, in fact, they were rarely mentioned. Adams controlled throughout with his kendo stick and gave Steve a lot of shots on the back with it. Adams eventually got tossed out of the ring and Steve attempted an elbow drop from the top rope. Adams rolled out of the way, allowing Steve to crash knees and helmet first onto the floor (no pads!)

AS IF THIS WERE NOT enough to keep my eyes riveted to the snowy TV picture, Adams staggers to the side of the ring where he is propped up by the ring post. Austin assumes a three point stance and comes charging at Chris. Chris moves and Austin goes barreling into the post HELMET FIRST!!! This guy is nuts! The helmet hitting the post sounded like a sledgehammer hitting a water pipe. The helmet cracked on top as well. Unbelievable! Despite all this, Adams still did not get the pin as the suspended Percy Pringle (more later) came out to assist Austin.

THE USWA OBVIOUSLY KNOWS that they have a major league feud here as they refuse to let this one die out. I mentioned last issue that Jeannie claimed to have pictures of Chris that his wife Toni would not want to see. Well, they showed them (of course) but they were nothing more than old publicity shots of Chris with Jeannie when they were still married.

I MENTIONED THAT PERCY Pringle was suspended and indeed he was, but only from his announcing duties. It seems that the USWA has suddenly taken a tough stance against him for his grabbing Toni Adams during last month's mixed tag match. Hmmm....you wouldn't suppose that this is management's way of apologizing to KTVI for all the rough stuff involving the ladies in recent months, do you?

ANYWAY, REPLACING PERCY is the round mound of sound...oops...scratch that. We're in a different promotion now. Make that "the Fans' Man" Joe Pedicino. Big Joe will handle the color duties while Craig Johnson continues with play by play. This is shaping up to be not a bad announcing duo.

IN OTHER MAT ACTION, the one night team of Jeff Jarrett and Jerry Lawler paired up to take on Sweet Dadi alcone and Gary Young, part of Devastation Inc. This came about because of Jeff's inability to handle Akbar's Army...oops....er, because Jeff wanted somebody who hated Akbar as much as he did. Jeff and Jerry destroyed Devastation for most of the match but started to lose when young and Falcone double teamed Jeff. While they both were taking care of Jarrett, Lawler pulled out the infamous dog chain and started pounding on the heels. He then pulled out another chain and tossed it to Jeff. Jeff looked at it (I thought he would have thrown it away) and used it to bash on Youn. They were DQ'd however, for the use of these chains.

IT WAS STRANGE WATCHING Jarrett use heel moves. I seriously doubt that Jarrett will be turning heel as he likes the idea of being an ultimate babyface. But yet there was Jeff, teaming with Lawler, using the Lawler chain and giving Jerry the okay to piledrive ref Tony Faulk after the match. Hmmm.

CONTINUED ON BOTTOM OF PAGE 17

MEMPHIS

IN THE LAST COUPLE OF issues I've said some pretty harsh things about Eddie Gilbert. I don't retract any of them, and I still think the way he dealt with the NWA was pretty low class, but there's no denying the man's genius. His performance and angles of the past month have been tremendous and have turned Memphis from the days of mummies and vampires into the hottest promotion in the United States once again.

DESPITE EDDIE'S INFLUENCE, however, it seems that the Unified Champion is Missing in Action. Eddie "Snowman" Crawford was scheduled to defend his title on the 8/20 Memphis card against Primetime Brian Lee, but he no showed the card. In a rare burst of honesty, Eddie Marlin announced to the assembled that he didn't know where Snowman was. He said that he had heard two stories. One was that Snowman hurt himself lifting weights and the other was that he was tired of the way he was being treated by the promotion. According to USWA rules (which mean absolutely NOTHING), Snowman should have been stripped of the title, but Marlin gave him one more chance. This past Monday night he was to defend against Brickhouse Brown. It was announced by Marlin on the 8/25 TV show that if Snowman didn't show for this one, he would be stripped of the title. He also said that Brown would not automatically become champ, either. Brown had a few comments of his own including one that sounded like a shoot. He said that with him as the challenger, Snowman wouldn't be able to "bring in the NAACP" on this one.

ALL SORTS OF OTHER STUFF going on as well. Jeff Gaylord turned babyface after his partner Scott Braddock was fired. On the 8/18 TV show, Bruno came out with Brian Lee and Don Harris, the CWA tag champs and Gaylord. Bruno was bragging up a storm about how great this new team was and how they were the best he had ever managed (you see this coming a mile away, right?). Gaylord was putting on a performance in the background that even Hulk Hogan wouldn't be envious of and finally confronted Bruno. Bruno said that he had made a mistake with Gaylord and Braddock and that now he only managed champions and that Gaylord was holding him back. Why someone who weighs 93 pounds would say that to someone Gaylord's size is beyond me, but he did and Gaylord picked him up threw him over the desk and into the curtains in back of the desk. Lee and Harris just sort of stood there watching. Later, during a Gaylord squash, Lee and Harris ran in and destroyed him.

ON THE PREVIOUS MONDAY night card, Jeff Jarrett had been wrestling Harris and Bruno and Lee ran in and gave him a stuff piledriver on a chair. He had done an interview from the Coliseum where he said he would have a mystery partner for the next Monday night.

DAVE BROWN THEN COMPLETELY blew the surprise when he gave the line up for the coming (8/20) Memphis show. The on screen graphic said that the opening match was Joey Mags vs Jeff Gaylord, but Dave tried to correct the graphic by saying that wasn't what had been listed on his sheet. He had Mags vs Big Lou Winston. Then he realized that they had not officially changed the on screen line up yet, but we already knew that Gaylord had been pulled from the opening contest. Guess where they put him? Yep, he's Jeff's mystery partner. That match ended up going to a no contest, by the way, and the card for 8/27 has a return bout with "no stopping" as the stipulation.

ON THAT SAME CARD, SAM Lowe ended up interfering in the six man cage match with Lawler/Dundee/Idol vs Eddie & Doug Gilbert/DWB Anthony. Eddie Marlin made the save with baseball bats. That led to the 8/20 match with the six returning in a cage and a special stip: the loser of the fall would have his head shaved. It also led to one of the funniest moments on TV this year.

EDDIE STARTED TAUNTING Lawler and tried to create some dissension

among Lawler's team. He told how Austin Idol was the only man who had ever shaved Lawler. Wouldn't he like to do it again. And as for Dundee, he has always been second behind Lawler in the promotion. Wouldn't shaving Jerry be nice revenge. Eddie called a fan out of the live audience and established that he was an Eddie Gilbert fan. He asked the fan if he had any idea what it was like to have your head shaved in front of so many people. The fan said, no, but he sure wanted to see Lawler get his head shaved again. Eddie and crew then grabbed the guy and started shaving him bald while he flailed and wailed. After it was over Dave Brown said, "I thought this poor guy was your best friend!" Eddie replied, "He is!" And now he knows what it feels like to have his head shaved!"

IN THE MATCH WITH THE hair stips, Doug Gilbert was the unlucky loser of the fall. He came out on TV the next week (we should mention here that John Tatum is taking a state sponsored vacation for allegedly violating his parole; part of the parole said that he had to stay away from drugs and alcohol and a random drug test by his parole officer revealed that he hadn't kept away so it's back in the can for him) wearing a mask. Eddie denied that Doug had lost his hair in Monday night match and that he was just testing this "flame resistant" mask in case Lawler tried to throw any fireballs. Eddie said that they had used Granny Gilbert's Hair Elixir and they pulled off Doug's mask to reveal a full head of hair. Well, maybe a full head of polyester; it was a real ratty looking wig. Naturally, later in the show, the wig got pulled off.

TESSA'S RUN AS A VALET is over. She has quit wrestling and is going to school to become a nurse. She lost the loser leave wrestling match as a result to Dirty White Girl on the 8/20 Memphis card. Dundee and Lawler have already replaced her with a tattooed (painted on, not real), cigar champin' (not lit) girl named Vicious Vicki. She debuted by ripping off Dirty White Girl's dress.

ON THE 8/27 MEMPHIS CARD, there will be yet another six man tag with the usual partners (Gilberts & DWB vs Lawler, Dundee, & Idol), this one being a "hospital elimination" match. As I understand it, you wrestle till you're carried out on a stretcher.

ALSO ON THAT CARD, a nineteen man battle royal is going to take place as well. They will be choosing nineteen fans as well with each of those fans getting one of the wrestlers to represent them. The fan who has the winning wrestler in the battle royal will get a prize that's probably as much as a weekly payoff to some of these guys...the winning fan gets 100 gallons of free gas.

WE'LL ALSO SEE WHAT promises to be the first of many matches between the Dirty White Girl and Vicious Vicki. If they can drag that out the way they did with Tess, then I figure we'll see this match, or a variation of this match, for the next six to eight weeks.

[illegible]

WORLD CLASS CONTINUED...

FINISHING MOVES: KERRY Von Erich's hotline is still being advertised during the TV show...the Rock and Roll RPM's (Mike Davis and Kevin Dillinger) are back to add some excitement to the stale tag team scene...Brickhouse Brown has been getting huge pops now that he is a babyface....Terrance Garvin is still wrestling here, but he has knocked off most of the gay routine he had been doing.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

LOTS OF STUFF FROM HERE including the results of Summerslam, the latest round of TV tapings done the night after, plus some other stuff as well. Let's check a couple of things first before we get there though.

ULTIMATE WARRIOR APPEARED last week on the Regis and Cathy Lee show (that may not be the name of the show, but those are the stars). The amazing thing was that he appeared **OUT OF CHARACTER!!!** He had the little dabs of face paint on, but he talked in a normal voice and joked with Regis and Cathy Lee about various things. He finally went into character and ripped apart the set, but meanwhile, the stuff out of character was fantastic. I almost didn't recognize him and my wife didn't.

ATTENTION TITAN PEOPLE: you want this guy to get over? Tired of him getting a bad rap because of his interviews, just let him go with his normal voice. The guy comes off as being very intelligent, and his thoughts are well organized. Last issue we did a top ten that made it seem like Warrior was a little stupid (you know, like the price of gas went up "a little"), but he dispelled any notions we had pertaining to his lack of gray matter.

SUMMERSLAM

THE SHOW OPENED LIVE WITH Shane Douglas pinning Buddy Rose in about 10 minutes. It was said to be "not bad" by several callers who attended the show live.

THE PAY PER VIEW OPENED with Power and Glory beating Marty Jannetty of the Rockers. Sean Michaels had blown out his knee a couple weeks ago and was limping noticeably on his way to the ring. Roma and Hercules attacked him on the outside of the ring and "injured" his knee, leaving Marty to fend for himself. Marty did a credible job of getting squashed but was victim of an awesome finishing move where Herc superplexes him and Roma comes off the opposite turnbuckles in a superfly leap. The timing was excellent and it was a pretty decent match. **GRADE: B+ ANALYSIS:** The Rockers would probably have been beaten anyway, but the injury to Sean necessitated the way this one was booked. This will set up future matches and be a mid level, second team feud.

KERRY VON ERICH, HENCEFORTH and always to be known as the Texas Tornado, pinned Curt Hennig for the Intercontinental belt. No surprise here, but this was a short match. Hennig caught Kerry in a sleeper then slapped his face several times in an insulting manner. Almost immediately after that, Kerry grabbed Curt's legs and catapulted him into the Turnbuckles (the same move that Curt uses every time he gets beat), followed by a short claw (you could almost hear Curt telling Kerry, "You dummy, this isn't Dallas! Use the discus punch!"), followed by a discus and a pin. It was short and lacked fluidity. **GRADE: C+ ANALYSIS:** As speculated more than a month ago, Kerry won in order to get him over in a hurry. This feud shouldn't continue much longer as I see a feud between Hennig and Rude starting soon.

TITAN THEN DID FANS EVERYWHERE a favor. They ran an angle instead of torturing us with Sherri vs Sapphire. Sherri came to the ring in makeup like she was a lost cast member of Zoobalee Zoo (a kid's show on Nick). Sapphire was announced twice, but she didn't show up and they gave the match to Sherri. Meanwhile, Mean Gene and Dusty were running around backstage trying to find her. More in a minute.

WARLORD BEAT TITO SANTANA in an okay match, due to Tito. Only thing worth noting here was a great line by Roddy Piper who when Vince wondered what Slick was doing with his shoe off, Roddy replied simply, "Chemical Warfare." Warlord won with a stampede/power slam. **GRADE: C- ANALYSIS:** I guess they had a few minutes to waste.

NEXT UP WAS THE HART Foundation taking the tag titles from Demolition in a two of three falls match. Smash (Barry Darsow) and Crush (Brian

Adams) were the members of Demo that were supposed to work the match. Demolition won the first fall with their regular finishing maneuver. The second fall went to the Hart Foundation after a Hart-Attack. Crush dived over the pinning combination to stop the referee's count, but the ref ruled that it was a three count anyway. The third fall saw Axe (Bill Eadie) come to ringside and hide under the ring. He would then trade places with his partners at will. Finally, the Road Warriors came to ringside and pulled him out from underneath and they started brawling with Smash going out to join in. Meanwhile, Crush had mounted the ropes. The Warriors shook him off and he crotched himself. Neidhart flew over the ropes with a shoulder block on Crush and Bret cradled him for the win and the championships. **GRADE: B ANALYSIS:** This relieves Demolition of the titles so that they are free to feud with the Roadies while the Hart Foundation can find a new feud, probably with Rude/Hennig for the time being.

IT WASN'T THE WORST MATCH of the night, but it was close. Jake Roberts beat Bad News Brown by DQ when Bad News went after special referee Bossman. Jake made the save with the snake. **GRADE: D ANALYSIS:** who cares?

MAJOR SNAFU NEXT. REMEMBER last year when the sign fell while Mean Gene did an interview and he suggested some immoral if not impossible actions? Well, this year, they taped the interviews and spliced them into the telecast. This interview had Demolition complaining about losing the tag titles. The problem was, they were in full face paint. The same paint that had worn off several minutes earlier. And no, they didn't have time to repaint their faces.

BROTHER LOVE'S SEGMENT WITH Sgt. Slaughter was next with him really trying hard to get over as a heel. Sarge looks like he didn't miss many meals while away from the WWF. In fact, it looks like he rarely passed up a restaurant. He gave his "Great American Award" to Brother Love and said the we (United States) were going to get our butts kicked over in the Middle East. He'd have gotten more heat if he'd have claimed that he was personally responsible for gas prices skyrocketing.

NEXT, KATE SMITH STARTED spinning in her grave. Jim Duggan and Nicolai Volkoff sang (not the right verb) "God Bless America." Roddy Piper quipped that it "sounded like dinner was late at the dog pound." Nick's really a very good singer, but with Hacksaw wailing away in a key no one's every heard before (and hopefully never again), he too, was off key. This was a squash match from the word go with Volkoff being terrible and Duggan almost as bad. They won with a Duggan spear. **GRADE: F**

BEFORE THE DUSTY VS SAVAGE match, Ted DiBiase came to an interview area and announced that once again he had proved that everyone has their price. He proved it by bringing out Sapphire and revealing (as if it were a big mystery) that he was the one who had been showering her with the lavish gifts. Dusty started down the aisle to get him, but Randy attacked from behind and the match was on. It was relatively short and saw Dusty throw his annual dropkick. As Dusty was threatening to hit Sherri, Randy came up from behind and hit him with Sherri's purse and scored the pinfall. **GRADE: C- ANALYSIS:** This ends this feud and sets up Dusty vs Ted. Savage will be primed for a feud with Ultimate Warrior.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE double main event, Hulk Hogan came out to a thunderous ovation. The group of folks that reported to me live said they had never heard anything like it. In the match with Earthquake, the going was S-L-O-W with lots of restholds. At one point, things did get interesting when Bossman and Bravo got involved with some in the ring action as well. Why there was no DQ at that point is beyond anybody's guess. EQ hit Hogan with two quakes, but Hogan hulked out to a huge pop. Hogan slammed EQ (he had tried twice previously, but failed) followed by the infamous leg bomb. The ref was distracted by Bravo, though, and didn't count the fall. Jimmy Hart ran in and jumped Hogan. He retaliated

by picking up little Jimmy, pressing him, and tossing him into/onto EQ. Everything spilled outside the ring with everyone involved and concluded with Hogan slamming EQ on a ringside table and destroying it in the process. He jumped back in the ring to beat the count and was the winner by COR. **GRADE: D+ ANALYSIS:** Well, the fact that Hogan didn't get a clean win does surprise me. He's off to make another movie so he won't be around a lot to squash Earthquake at house shows. The fact that he didn't get a clean win, though does set up the rematch for a conclusive winner at a later date.

AFTER THE MATCH, EARTHQUAKE went back to beating on Hogan and had him in a choke while Bossman came from behind with an aluminum chair. He hit him three times before EQ dropped Hogan (the chair bending was an impressive touch). Bossman tossed away the chair and drew his nightstick and did some fancy twirls with it while the heels retreated. That got a big pop, but not nearly as big as when Hogan's music started playing.

FINALLY, IT WAS TIME FOR the cage match with Rude and Warrior. Warrior continues to improve with his work and this match was pretty decent. They traded back and forth in the beginning, ramming each other into the cage (Calgary style, not cyclone fence variety) and Rude juiced, though not a whole lot. They changed the rules for this one; pins inside the cage would be allowed for the first time. Rude had the match won several times, but always went back for more. He got to the top of the cage and jumped off with a double ax handle on Warrior twice, the second time with Warrior hitting him in the stomach. Another time, Rude had crawled to the door and Heenan was helping to pull him from the ring when Warrior grabbed a handful of tights and stripped Rude bare. At this point, Heenan was brought in the cage to get beat up a little while Rude caught his breath. Warrior finally "hulked out" (Warriored out?), hit Rude with three clotheslines, a press slam and climbed over the top for the win. Impressive work by both guys, and I've determined that Warrior's work isn't that bad, but he is severely limited by his character. **GRADE: B ANALYSIS:** This should pretty well end the feud. Warrior's been pinning Rude cleaning around the country anyway, so there should be no reason for a rematch. Rude will go on to team with Curt Hennig in some tag matches while Warrior will team with the Road Warriors vs Demolition until a feud can be set up with Randy Savage.

NOTES ON THE SHOW: Not a bad show overall, but it seemed like they had an awful lot of interviews, or at least more than normal...at least we didn't have to sit through 139 commercials for an upcoming boxing PPV...the agents were on the lookout for offensive NWA banners and signs. Reader Dan DeLiberty was on the aisle with a Sting bandana and Rene Goulet about had heart failure when he finally realized what it was. He ordered a security guard to "remove that sign!" and the guard promptly went to the guy behind Dan and tore up a sign that read "Hulk Rules"...Crowd live was a legit sellout...obstructed view seats were sold and they turned out to be either behind the cameras or with an obstructed view of the large screen TVs...locally, buy rates were once again impressive....checking with our selected cable companies and averaging the buyrates (which have turned out to be within a few points of the actual buyrates in the past), it looks like Summerslam will do almost a 5.0 (4.87 is what we got on the average).

OTHER STUFF AND TV TAPING notes: Titan held TV tapings on 8/28 in Hershey, PA. Gary and Tim Howerter attended and phoned in a report...

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE Brother Love segments will now be "sponsored" by Rick Martel's Arrogance. Each time he does a spot, he talks first about the cologne for about 30 seconds before introducing his guest. The biggest news came from a Brother Love spot where Sgt. Slaughter debuted his new manager/advisor (I hope you're sitting down); Sheik Adnon El-Kaissey. Not exactly a show stopper, but it'll sure slow it down a bunch.

LATER IN THE SHOW, SARGE and Kaissey do a run in during a Volkoff-Zhukov match and they triple up on Nick. Advance warning for those of you who would like to raid the refrigerator the week they broadcast this one.

TUGBOAT IS BACK and after a squash of one of the Conquistadors, he challenged Earthquake. Hogan came out and posed with Earthquake, which was a surprise since this was one of the first matches on the card.

TONY ATLAS ALSO MADE HIS latest debut and worked as a straight babyface with some sort of Zulu or African gimmick. He's using the full nelson as a finisher. They gave him a new name, but Hershey is one of those places that spends \$7 million on a civic center and \$29.95 for a Mr. Microphone public address system.

SEAN MICHAELS WAS BACK, but he was on crutches. The knee injury will be blamed on Power and Glory. You know, that might be a pretty decent feud once Sean is back to 100%

SUMMERSLAM SET UP AN INTERESTING situation that we've not seen in a while. All three championships here are held by babyfaces. I've tried to go back and think when the last time that happened, and I can't come up with any. Can you?

TRADITIONALLY, PROMOTIONS liked to have heel championships. The theory was that people will pay to see a babyface underdog go after a championship more readily than they would to see a heel go after a babyface's belt. That theory would still hold true today, except that promotions are marketing the live shows differently from a few years ago. Instead of marketing feuds, per se, they are marketing the personal appearances of the wrestlers. They hope that fans will then just assume that the wrestlers appearing will be wrestling in the feud that they are most familiar with. If I were a promoter, I would promote the old way, but I guess that's why I'm sitting here typing rather than working for a promotion and eating handfuls of Tylenol every hour.

LATE NIGHT WITH DAVID Letterman repeated the show with Vince McMahon as a guest during the past week. I usually tune in to Letterman when I get home at night, but for some reason I missed that whole week's worth of shows. Do you suppose I have some sort of built-in radar?

RODDY PIPER IS SUPPOSED to be reviving the Piper Pit segments as well as doing color commentary. He did not do the Pits at the Hershey tapings although the crowd was asked to chant "Roddy" at one point for the TV crew (there was a noticeable chant for Jesse). Piper's work on Summerslam was good, and although he won't be a foil for Vince, his caustic comments should make him a popular color man.

BY THE WAY, THE REASON Vince handled the play by play on Summerslam personally was because there was basically no one else to do it. Gorilla is still out of action with an amputated toe, and none of the other announcers are ready to handle play by play the way Vince wants it done. That includes Mean Gene. The way it worked out was great as Vince is very good at play by play whether we like to admit it or not.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

8/10 CLEVELAND (NWA) - courtesy of BOB STASCAK...Starblazer (Tim Horner) beat Barry Horowitz...Norman splashed Mantell...Rotundo pinned Iron Sheik...Southern Boys beat Freebirds...Hansen over Tommy Rich...Orndorff by DQ over Windham...Sting/JYD beat Flair/Anderson...NOTES: Attendance: 2500...heels in early matches used house mike to insult city of Cleveland to get heat...Windham tossed Orndorff over top rope for DQ...Sid Vicious at ringside...fight in crowd interrupted main event and the wrestlers stopped to watch...Sting pinned Ric for win.

8/16 BINGHAMTON, NY (WWF) - courtesy of STEVE GENNARELLI...Hercules pinned Sam Houston (ZZ)...Brooklyn Brawler over Jose Luis Rivera (Z)...Nicolai Volfoff pinned Boris Zhukov (F)...Dusty/Sapphire beat Randy/Sherri (C)...Buddy Rose pinned Pez Whatley (D)...Jimmy Snuka defeated Iron Mike Sharpe (F)...Harts/Duggan beat Demolition by DQ (C)...NOTES: Attendance 2300...Fans cheered heel Hercules...worst card here in the past four years...Rhodes win over Savage at the TV taping in June was Rhodes' first in Binghamton since a 3/78 drubbing of Stan Stasiak...in mixed tag, babies won with an assist from Liz's purse.

8/18 BOSTON (WWF) - courtesy of LUIS FORTUNA...Brawler beat Rivera...Hercules over Pete Doherty...Volkoff over Boris...Demolition pinned Harts/Duggan...Rose over Whatley...Snuka beat Sharpe...Dusty/Sapphire over Randy/Sherri...NOTES: Attendance 4500...No shows included Rick Martel, Hillbilly Jim, and Shane Douglas...Luis notes, as did Steve earlier, that this was the worst card here ever.

insert LONG BEACH/GROSS

8/19 LONG BEACH, CA (WWF) - courtesy of MARK GROSS...Jim Brunzell beat Black Bart (C-)...Paul Roma pinned Jim Powers (B+)...Warlord over Tito (C-)...Rhythm & Blues beat Bushwackers (D)...Bad News by DQ over Jake (C-)...Hogan pinned Bravo (B-)...NOTES: Attendance: 10,000...Jake DQ'd for pulling out Damien...R&B gave another concert...Tugboat was not there in Hogan's corner.

8/24 EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ (Meadowlands) - courtesy of DANIEL CHORNOMAZ...Zenk over Dutch Mantell (C-)...Pillman pinned Landell (B)...Vader squashed Mr. X (Randy Culey) (B)...Stan Hansen destroyed Terry Taylor (A-)...Steiners beat Midnight Express (A)...Vicious/Anderson/Windham beat Gigante/JYD/Orndorff (C)...Luger defeated Mean Mark (D)...Doom over Rock and Roll (C+)...Sting pinned Flair (B)...NOTES: Attendance: 8400...Jim Ross at ringside for most of the matches...Mean Mark vs Luger would be given an F if not for Paul E working the crowd...Luger did the best he could...Ending was blown and Paul E had to re do his bump...Taylor did a job for Hansen and took some incredible bumps outside the ring...crowd rooted for the heels.

ATLANTA (IND) - courtesy of GARY LYNCH...Billy Black beat Chris Walker...Randy Rose drew Steve Lawler...Jack Victory beat the Sheik...Joel Deaton over Festus...Nick Busick over Abdullah the Butcher by DQ...NOTES: Card was held on a stage of a movie Theatre...Ron Simmons was in the audience...Abby and Nick brawled up the aisle in front of Ron who joined in the brawl...Jack Victory also came out to join in and the brawl went from the ring to the audience to the lobby to the parking lot and back again...Simmons was on vacation from the NWA at the time.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

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SORRY FOR BEING LATE... I got the finished copy to the printer Saturday morning but they had decided to take an extra long weekend, so I came back home to update this page...

LOOKS LIKE SPRINGFIELD, IL will be the site of Titan tapings in October. I've been told by local officials that Titan will tape both the Superstars syndicated show and Saturday Night's Main Event from Springfield on October 9. I am making plans to attend, though I'm not sure how with work and school.

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE calls with your concerns about the tornados that ripped through the northern part of our state. We are a long ways from that area that was hit. We do appreciate your concern.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE Titan offices in Stamford, CT received quite a few calls from people who objected to Sgt. Slaughter's remarks at Summer-slam about our boys getting their butts kicked in the Middle East. I've also heard from a couple of cable operators who said that they had received a few calls in protest as well.

STAFF MEMBER MIKE VIOLA, who does the ICW and World Class reports is looking for some help. He would like as many of you who can (especially those of you in the Pittsburgh area) to write to the station there that carries the shows and urge them to continue broadcasting both shows. The Address is **WNEU-TV, 1001 EAST EMERY DRIVE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15216, ATT: PROGRAM DIRECTOR.**

A NEW BULLETIN ON THE Market is called Texas Round Up. The editor is supposedly a wrestler in the Texas area and will cover World Class and Texas Independents from the inside. I do not know who the wrestler is who writes it. If you are interested, the proposed schedule is every two weeks and cost is \$1.25 per issue. The editor asks that you send cash, so, to protect yourself, send for just one or two issues if you're interested. The address is: **TEXAS ROUND UP, BOX 2306, GRAND PRAIRIE, TX 75053**

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO have something to buy or sell, or you just want to correspond with fans around the country, there is no charge for our **READER REQUESTS.** The only requirement is that you must be a subscriber. The best way to handle this is on a postcard or three by five index card. Send it along and we'll print it as space permits.

STILL LOOKING TO HEAR what you all would like to see in this year's edition of the yearbook. Please let me know what you think has worked in the past and what hasn't.

THE DATE FOR THE ARRIVAL of the computer has been pushed back a couple of weeks due to the sudden demand brought on by the start of school.

As it stands right now, the first issue produced on the Mac will be the October 15 edition. I'm told that we may even be able to keep the red and green labels as long as we buy a red and green ribbon. Wow!

I'VE ALSO BEEN NOTIFIED by the Post Office that local sorting operations are coming to an end soon. This means the bulletin will still be mailed from Knoxville, but the sorting and processing will be done 50 miles away in Peoria. The letter tells me that due to the way we address, the machines may not be as efficient and so, there could be a delay of an extra two or three days. Wonderful. All this and a postage increase coming in February. Well, as they say, storage cost more now days.

SEE YOU IN ABOUT TEN DAYS OR SO! BYE!

WRESTLING FORUM V5I16
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STILL OLD FASHIONED: To tell if your subscription is current, look at the color of ink used in printing your address label above. If it's black ink, your subscription is current. If it's **GREEN INK** then this is your next to last issue. If it's **RED INK** then this is the last issue on your subscription and it's time to renew. Thanks for reading!